



March/April
2004

Eastern Express

The Newsletter of the Eastern Library System

From the Administrator

Kathy Tooker

The Public Library Association's Conference in Seattle, February 24-28, was attended by 8700 librarians, trustees, Friends and exhibitors. I attended many excellent programs and was thrilled to hear Anna Quindlen, novelist and Pulitzer-prize winning journalist, speak to a packed room with several thousand people at the Opening General session. Her address set the stage for a great conference.

Another session that was filled to capacity was "Advocacy in Hard Times @ your library™." PLA is introducing a new advocacy campaign "Smartest Card @ your library™" which will be a multi-year public education campaign created to speak about the value of librarians and libraries in the 21st century.

As I listened to one of the presenters state that the goal is to turn passive support for libraries into educated action, I thought, "That's what we have been doing in Nebraska." Library Legislative Day 2004, held on February 19, was attended by over 150 librarians, trustees, Friends, and senators. Several first-time attendees commented on how much they had enjoyed the day. One senator after looking out over the crowded room during the coffee and doughnuts time, said that libraries really had a lobby group now and that he heard from them. Music to my ears!

Eight youth from across the state (see next page) were recognized for the volunteer work they do at their local public or school library. These kids were IMPRESSIVE. I encouraged the older youth to consider the library as a profession.

Turn Passive Support into Educated Action

Speakers for the day included Bill Johnson, publisher of the *Lincoln Journal Star* who spoke about the media and community building. Library Commissioner Wally Seiler from Alliance spoke on the importance of mentorship. The afternoon education seminar presenter was Mike Nolan, city administrator from Norfolk, who used a Power Point program to illustrate his address on servant leadership. Each contributed to the day and I thank them again for their participation.

Ken Winston, NLA lobbyist, highlighted bills and issues of interest to the library world.

- LB 784— Would grant authority for financing public facilities through bonded indebtedness for joint projects among political subdivision.
- LB 879—Provides a Nebraska income tax credit for certain charitable contributions to a permanent endowment held by a tax-exempt organization.
- LB 936—Changes reporting requirements for public libraries.
- LB 901—Prohibits acts related to commercial electronic mail messages.
- LB 1236—Prohibits acts related to computer fraud and unsolicited email.
- Nebraska Library Commission Budget—Administration's Proposed Budget includes a 2.5% reduction in operations and a 1% reduction in state aid.

Legislative Day was a success due to the many people who helped: the members of the NLA Legislative Committee, the volunteers who helped at the luncheon, NLC Network Services Department that demonstrated NebraskaAccess, and all of you who invited your senator and visited with them during the day about what is happening at your local library. Thanks for being library advocates not just passive supporters.

Youth Honored at Legislative Day 2004



Anh Do, Lincoln & Senator Dave Landis



Mariana Estrada, Papillion & Senator Nancy Thompson



Zane Fletcher, Omaha & Senator Chip Maxwell



Sarah Gyhra, Pawnee City & Senator Floyd Vrtiska



Matt Langley, Beatrice and Senator Dennis Byars



Richard McDonald, Oxford & Senator Ed Schrock



Kailey Rock, Grand Island & Senator Ray Aguilar



Annie Taylor, Neligh & Senator Vickie McDonald

A Word to Trustees

[Maggie Harding, NLA Executive Director]

I want to thank Jill Bresson, Trustee at Crete Public Library, Larry Jirsak, Trustee at Keene Memorial Library, Fremont, and Kristen Rogge, NLC Commissioner for serving as greeters at the Nebraska Library Associations' Legislative Day, February 19. It gave the Senators a chance to meet the people who are responsible for supporting libraries on a local level. The Senators are well aware of the people who staff the libraries, thanks to hard work on the part of NLA Legislative Committee. They haven't been as aware of the trustee group. This is something we would like to improve on.

I know that some of you have not been aware of the purpose of the NLA mailing list. The welcoming statement spells out some of the details, but I would like to emphasize these issues. The list is not a public list. It is for members of NLA only. Email addresses are not available through the list. The messages that are transmitted deal with library issues only. It is monitored closely and any abuses are handled immediately. You will not be deluged with unwanted "spam." The Association has chosen the mailing list as a way of keeping members current on the happenings of the Association and any library issues that may arise. It is a cost-effective way of reaching our membership. The numbers of emails you are likely to receive in a months' time have ranged from none to around 20. Please consider (or reconsider) keeping your name on the list. We want to keep in touch!



TUFS has been working with the systems on a survey that will be coming to the trustees soon. We are trying to determine what issues you feel are important and where you would like to have more information or training. When you receive yours, please answer it and return it. This will help in planning future continuing education programs of interest to trustees.

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Book Reviews

by Joan Chesley
Keene Memorial Library, Fremont



Children will yell and scream that they see the cows for who can miss? Except Farmer McPeepers who happily continues on his way.

For Teens

GOODNIGHT SAM, by Marie Louise Gay, Groundwood Book, 0-88899-530-x
Ever since Rob Reid came to the Summer Reading Workshop of 2003, I look at picture books with a new eye. How many ways can I use this book? **GOODNIGHT SAM** is of course a sweet read aloud to the 3-year-olds in the story time group, but it has potential as a dialogue for older kids or a program. It all starts with Sam's inability to sleep without his little wiener dog, Fred. His ever patient big sister, Stella, takes her little brother through the house in the chance that Fred might have chosen one hiding place or another. But Fred is not found in any of those places, all eerily spooky in the middle of the night. Sam finds Fred buried in the blanket on his bed. Still Sam can't sleep. Fred snores too loudly.

AN INTERVIEW WITH HARRY THE TARANTULA by Leigh Ann Tyson, Illustrated by Henrik Drescher, National Geographic, 0-7922-5122-9. Katy Did from Up Close and Personal on station KBUG talk radio has an unusual guest in this book with tarantula, Harry Spyder. Katy asks Harry all the right questions and learns some unusual facts about tarantulas such as they shed hair as a foil to their enemies. Her questions are up close and incisive, and Harry cooperates. The illustrations are quirky and funny even as Harry makes a plea to the bug collector that maybe collecting spiders is cruel to the spider. The question and answer format has several possibilities with role playing and programming.

THIRSTY BABY by Catherine Ann Cullen, Illustrated by David McPhail, Little Brown, 0-316-16357-0. "I'm thirsty and I need a drink!" squeals the baby over and over again as he is given a bottle, a bathtub full of water, a pond, a river and a sea. The thirsty baby drinks them all up, and his loving family brings on bigger and better bodies of water. Children chime in with the repetitiveness of the story, until the baby finally is put to bed ready to start the whole thing all over again.

FARMER McPEEPERS AND HIS MISSING MILK COWS by Katy S. Duffield, Illustrated by Steve Gray, Rising Moon, 0-87358-825-8. The Far Side look-alike animals were the draw in this book. These Holsteins play a big trick on nearsighted Farmer McPeepers as he searches for his cows who are "up to no good." Each page has the herd frolicking in one place or another, and of course the near blind farmer is oblivious to them.

NECESSARY NOISE: STORIES ABOUT OUR FAMILIES AS THEY REALLY ARE, edited by Michael Cart, Joanna Cotler, 0060274999. You have to read the entire book of short stories to get to the best two at the end. "Dr. Jekyll and Sister Hyde" by Sonya Sones, in free verse, is the worst nightmare of a sister. Lucy, 2 years older than Sasha, is the tyrant of the family taking what she will from Sasha including her boyfriends. Parents and teachers are oblivious to Lucy's machinations, falling for her "poor little me" guise. Sasha is indeed frightened of her sister and at one point thinks maybe her parents may read about her murdering her own family one distant day. The fear is not unsubstantiated either for Lucy has broken two bones in Sasha's arm as a punishment. But justice prevails at the end. Wicked Lucy is caught in an uncompromising situation and Sasha has the power to either expose her or to cover for her.

"Snowbound" by Lois Lowry is a truly hilarious story. (Write this title down when the speech class comes to you for a funny short story or paragraph for their class) Evelyn Collier, 18, brings her boyfriend, Lucien, home to meet her family. It seems Lucien, and Evelyn, too, is minimalists. Mrs. Collier discovers quickly what that means. No toothbrushes, no coat. No underwear, bald tires on his rusting car. She also quickly notes that obviously Lucien, or Loosh as he is fondly called by Evelyn, has not bathed nor showered nor combed his hair in an interval of time more accurately measured in months than days. Evelyn's two little brothers gaze at him open mouthed as the family is housebound for the duration of the storm, which is all too short for the reader.

Other stories are by Joan Bauer, Norma Howe, Emma Donoghue, Joyce Carol Thomas, Rita Williams-Garcia, Michael Cart and Walter Dean Myers. "The Visit" by Walter Dean Myers about a father visiting his son for the first time in 23 years is a powerful story. The son is on death row.

Youth Services Retreat at Camp Carol
Joy Holling, Ashland - October 28-29.
Note change of date
since previously announced.

Announcements

Nominations for Meritorious Service and Mari Sandoz Awards Due by May 28, 2004



The NLA Citations Committee invites nominations for the Meritorious Service Award and the Mari Sandoz Award for the year 2004.

- The Meritorious Service Award is given annually to the person, corporation, or organization which has contributed to the improvement of library service in a local community, region, state agency, or in library legislation.
- The Mari Sandoz recognizes significant, enduring contribution to the Nebraska book world through writing, film production, or related activity.

Nomination procedures:

1. The original letter of nomination should include the nominee's name, address, and telephone number, the nominee's accomplishments, and any relevant supporting documentation. The letter should include the name, title, address, and telephone number of the person or group making the nomination.
2. Also required are at least four additional letters that support and endorse the nomination. Such letters may provide further information about the nominee.
3. The NLA Meritorious Service Award may be given to an individual or group.
4. More information and lists of past recipients may be found in the NLA Handbook at <http://www.nol.org/home/NLA/handbook/handbk8.htm#merit>
5. Nominations and letters of support must be received by Friday, **May 28, 2004** and should be mailed to:

Patty Birch
Chair 2004 NLA Citations Committee
North Platte High School
1220 West 2nd Street
North Platte, NE 69101

Nominations may also be submitted via e-mail at pbirch@esul6.org

OCLC CATEXPRESS OFFER FOR NEW SUBSCRIBERS: 13 MONTHS FOR THE PRICE OF 12

NEBASE is offering a free trial month of OCLC CatExpress access to new subscribers. CatExpress provides web-based copy cataloging to small libraries at a low, flat-fee subscription price.

If you are cataloging 2,400 or fewer titles a year, CatExpress is the most efficient way to get your records into OCLC. A CatExpress subscription includes the cost of searching the WorldCat database, setting or deleting your holdings in WorldCat, receiving MARC records to load into your local system, and your telecommunications charges to OCLC.

The OCLC CatExpress trial subscription is a no-risk way to see if CatExpress is right for you and your library. Many libraries new to OCLC would like to know what kind of hit rate they will receive with CatExpress. You may also want to know how the records from OCLC can be processed by your local system. The trial option allows you to do real work with CatExpress, before committing to a subscription.

The introductory subscription is for the month of June 2003, and is free. If you do not wish to continue with CatExpress, simply cancel before the end of the month. If you do not cancel within that first month, the subscription automatically rolls over to the regular 12 month subscription, which runs from July 2003-June 2004.

NEBASE will be taking orders for CatExpress from now through May 15. The free trial month will begin on June 1, 2003. If you decide to continue with CatExpress after the free trial month is over, you don't need to do a thing. You will automatically be added to NEBASE's CatExpress Group Subscription. You will only pay for the regular 12 month subscription, receiving 13 months of CatExpress access for the price of 12.

To learn more about CatExpress, and to see the special NEBASE Group Subscription Pricing, go to <http://www.nlc.state.ne.us/netserv/nebase/catx.html>.

Contact Christa Burns at cburns@nlc.state.ne.us or 800-307-2665 or 402-471-3107 if you have any questions and to sign up for the CatExpress offer.

More Announcements

JOIN THE WEBDEWEY & ABRIDGED WEBDEWEY GROUP PURCHASE

Experience the power of Dewey on the web!

Now you can have web-based access to an enhanced version of the Dewey Decimal Classification (DDC) database through WebDewey and Abridged WebDewey. NEBASE is building a new group of WebDewey and Abridged WebDewey users across Nebraska. OCLC is offering a discounted price for users who join the NEBASE WebDewey/Abridged WebDewey group.

The current WebDewey/Abridged WebDewey group subscription year runs from January 1, 2004 - December 31, 2004. Libraries may join the WebDewey/Abridged WebDewey group at any time. Midyear subscriptions will be prorated. Orders must be received by the 15th of the month for a start date of the 1st of the following month.

Libraries who wish to subscribe do not have to be members of OCLC. Any library can subscribe - *WebDewey and Abridged WebDewey are available to both OCLC member and non-member libraries.*

WebDewey and Abridged WebDewey, which correspond to the unabridged and abridged print editions, are updated on a quarterly basis, bringing you ongoing updates implemented by the Dewey editorial team almost as soon as they occur. The Web versions also offer additional electronic functionality not available in the print editions to make your classification work more efficient.

If your collection holds less than 20,000 titles, Abridged WebDewey is for you. It gives you access to an enhanced version of the Abridged Dewey. Abridged WebDewey is now based on the new Abridged Edition 14.

WebDewey has been based on the enhanced DDC 22 database since June 2003.

For more information about web access to the DDC, go to <<http://www.oclc.org/dewey/versions/default.htm>>

Joining the NEBASE WebDewey & Abridged WebDewey Group is easy!

If your library is interested in joining the new WebDewey/Abridged WebDewey group, please complete the online Order Form at <<http://www.nlc.state.ne.us/netserv/nebase/deweyorder.html>>

If you have any questions about WebDewey, Abridged WebDewey or the NEBASE group, contact Christa Burns at cburns@nlc.state.ne.us, 402-471-3107, or 800-307-2665.

Christa Burns
OCLC Member Services Coordinator
Nebraska Library Commission

College of DuPage Teleconferences

(11 am—1 pm at Bellevue University and Creighton University Health Sciences Library)

March 12: Children's Internet Protection Act: "Web Filtering: Policy, Software, Staff Training"

March 26: Professional Toolkit: Skills for Advancement

Election Results....

There are two new members to the NEBASE Advisory Council:

- Lori Rader, Sorenson Branch Manager, Omaha Public Library (Public Library Representative)
- Lauralee Grave, Head of Technical Services, Creighton University, Reinert/Alumni Library (Academic Representative)

National Library Week

April 18-24

April is...

School Library Month

National Poetry Month

SYSTEM NEWS

University of Nebraska at Omaha

Marvel Maring has been named the Humanities/ Fine Arts Reference Librarian at the University of Nebraska at Omaha Library beginning January 5, 2004. Maring received her MLIS from the University of Alabama, Tuscaloosa, Alabama. Maring also has MFAs in Book Arts and in Painting and Drawing.

Baright Public Library, Ralston

The author of *The Cat Who Liked Potato Soup*, Terry Farish, was the director at the Ralston Public from 1977-1982. She received a bachelor's degree in Social Work & History at Texas Women's University, an MLS at California State University and an MA in literature and writing from Antioch University. She has worked as an editor, social worker, librarian (in New Hampshire; Nebraska; Oxford, England and Leominster, Massachusetts) and worked for the Red Cross in Vietnam. She currently teaches writing at the Salt Institute for Documentary Studies and is the editor of *Salt Magazine*, a journal that tells Maine Stories in images and the written word. She also does workshops and lecture-demonstrations. Terry has written 6 other books:

- *Why I'm Already Blue*
- *Shelter for a Seabird*
- *If the Tiger*
- *Flower Shadows*
- *A House in Earnest*
- *Talking in Animal*

A note of thanks to the following librarians who are retiring or moving on to new endeavors.

They have been positive influences in their communities and valued members of the Eastern Library System

Thank you and all the best in the future.

- Lylas Guthrie, Hooper
- Beth Molyneux, Bellevue
- Charlene Harding, Springfield

Welcome to new Eastern Library System Librarians

- **Rivkah Sass, Omaha Public Library**
- **Connie Manzer, Springfield Public Library**
- **Alice Boeckman, Bellevue Public Library (Children's Librarian)**
- **Jen Reiman, Hooper Public Library (Interim director)**

Eastern Library System Bylaw Change

According to the ELS Bylaws they may be amended by a majority of the System Board present at any regular meeting, if at least two day's written notice is given of the intention to amend Bylaws at such a meeting. The nominating committee proposed to amend Article VI, Section 6.5 which reads "Board members shall be elected by mail ballot and the results will be announced at the annual meeting" to "Board members shall be elected by electronic ballot or by regular mail where electronic access is unavailable and the results will be announced at the annual meeting."

This change was voted on and approved at the January 16, 2004 ELS Board Meeting. The ballot will be approved at the March Board Meeting and will be sent out in April.

Omaha Public Library

In preparation for Omaha's 150th birthday in 2004, the Omaha Public Library has launched a new website, Early Omaha: Gateway to the West. www.omaha.lib.ne.us/earlyomaha/.

The Eastern Library System Board has endorsed the Resolution on the USA Patriot and Related Measures That Infringe on the Rights of Library Users.

You can find the resolution on the American Library Association website:
www.ala.org/olaorg/oif/usapatriotresolution.html

MORE NEWS

Blair Public Library

The Friends of the Blair Public Library sponsored a jigsaw puzzle exchange on February 21. Several people from the community brought jigsaw puzzles to the library to exchange with other puzzle enthusiasts.



Besides getting different puzzles to work on themselves, they were able to see a 9,000 piece puzzle on display on the meeting room floor.



Author Harley Jane Kozak visited the Blair Public Library on February 27 as part of her tour of Nebraska. Kozak is an actress turned mystery writer. Her first book, **Dating Dead Men**, has received very favorable reviews and is a Book of the Month Club selection.



Omaha Public Schools

Two OPS library media specialists had articles published in the December issue of Teach Librarian. Heidi Neumann's (Fullerton/Pawnee) article provided resources which can help make facilities and information accessible to as many people as possible regardless of disability. Lu Duimstra (Spring Lake/Conestoga) reviewed books which can help students cope with and address teasing and name-calling.

Linda Scholz, Chandler View, was a recent recipient of an Omaha Schools Foundation grant.

Retired media specialist, Alice Thompson, who is now a volunteer reader at Yates School, was named one of WOWT's "Six Who Share."

**Eastern Library System
Annual Meeting
June 4, 2004
La Vista Public Library**

**Mark your calendars - you won't
want to miss it!**

Trustee Page

Working for the Good of the Library

[by James Swan, Director Central Kansas Library System, Reprinted with permission]

No one person can control what happens in a library. The librarian is not in control. The president of the board is not in control. The mayor is not in control. The efforts of the entire community control the destiny of the library. Librarians and board members often have a more visible role in the way the library meets the needs of the community.

How librarian and board members can work together
On one occasion I asked librarians and their trustees how they could work together to make their library more responsive to the needs of the community. Here are some of their more helpful responses:

- Keep communication lines open
- Show appreciation for work well done
- Listen for public comments
- Encourage a good relationship with the press
- Work to make the public more aware of the library's value
- Be aware of various age groups and try to fit library services and programs to the needs of all groups
- Be quick to explain actual needs of the library to the public
- Schedule regular events at the library
- Get as many people as possible to come to the library for something
- Put a suggestion box in the library
- Try to give the people what they want when they come to the library
- The board should be able to express the feelings of the public, thus representing the feelings and concerns of the public
- Get out in the community organizations and find out how the library can be of use
- Begin a volunteer program to let people work for the library and let them feel more responsible for it
- Hold an open house and invite the public to meet board members
- Do not let personal thoughts interfere with group decisions
- Board members should know what the librarian does

Trustee Concerns

Most trustees understand their role as the link between the library and the community. They are concerned about:

- Taxes the people pay
- Adequacy of funding for library services
- How well the library is meeting the needs of the people
- How well the library is communicating to the public
- How well the library is being managed
- How well the staff is being treated

Guiding Principles

1. Start with a goal that can be perceived as a benefit to the public and enlist 100% support from everyone on the board
2. Include community leaders and library staff
3. Communicate honestly and openly, be patient and willing to work

Importance of Planning

Planning is intellectual creation. We create our own futures by envisioning if first and then setting the course to make it happen. The key to making is successful is to clearly visualize the event of accomplishment. Make it realistic, yet challenging. Make it measurable and set a completion date. Develop goals for your library based on the mission statement. Evaluate your success or failure.

ALTA (Association for Library Trustees and Advocates) has created an online discussion list for "anyone interested in posting questions or learning more about issues affecting America's libraries." To subscribe to the discussion list:

- Send an email message to: listproc@ala.org
- Leave the subject area blank
- In the body of the message type:

"Subscribe ALTA-L [your first name] [your last name]
(without the brackets)

You will receive an e-mail message with directions on how to use this list. Once you have subscribed to the list, you will send messages to:
Alta-L@ala.org.

For Children's Librarians & Media Specialists

For Media Specialists

If you do not subscribe to *LMC - Library Media Connection* - why not call the system office and ask to have your name put on the routing list for this excellent resource. The January 2004 issue has a great article by Pat Miller on "Library Tactics to Encourage Reading." Here are ideas on using storytelling, book talking and book displays, puppetry, games, author visits, songs and chants, and readers' theatre. Plus there are other great tips and articles that will help you make your media center the place to be.

Beverly Cleary wins the National Medal of Arts, the nation's highest honor for artistic excellence. Cleary won the Newbery Medal for *Dear Mr. Henshaw* in 1986 and also wrote the popular Ramona books. Maurice Sendak also won this honor in 1996.

The Best of The Best from Rob Reid's Heart of a Child Newsletter, January, 21. 2004, gave 15 books that made at least three of the five "Best Lists" from *BookLinks*, *Booklist*, *Horn Book*, *Publisher's Weekly*, and *School Library Journal*. No book made all five lists, but two, *George Washington's Teeth* and *In Defense*, made four of the five lists. These might be worth considering for your collection.

Picture Books:

1. *Goldilocks and the Three Bears* by Aylesworth
2. *The Man Who Walked Between the Two Towers* by Gerstein
3. *Will Moses Mother Goose* by Moses
4. *My Name is Yoon* by Recorvits
5. *Big Mama Makes the World* by Root

Juvenile Fiction/YA Fiction:

1. *True Confessions of a Heartless Girl* by Brooks
2. *The Conch Bearer* by Donnelly
3. *Olive's Ocean* by Henkes
4. *The Canning Season* by Horvath
5. *Stop the Train* by McCaughrean

6. *The River Between Us* by Peck

7. *Locomotion* by Woodson

Nonfiction:

1. *Ben Franklin's Almanac* by Fleming

2. *The Tree of Life* by Sis

To interlibrary loan a copy of either or both of these articles, please contact the system office:

- *Authentic Listening Experiences: Multicultural Audiobooks—BookLinks*, January 2004 .
- *Top Shelf Fiction for Middle School Readers 2003—VOYA*, February 2004.

Site Seeing

lyrics.astraweb.com— Lyrics to all the newest songs, everything from rock to pop to hip-hop and rap.

www.hamsterdance.com—Visit this site just for the fun of seeing cute little hamsters dance, shop, and talk and read about their tales, news, and history.

www.askdrjami.org/issues/issues_divorce.html—A bibliography of fiction books featuring divorce, remarriage, and/or blended family situations for students grades 3-6.

www.ala.org/greatsites—ALSC's Librarians Great Guide to Web Sites for Kids with tips and guidelines.

www.animaland.org—Fun pet site with Bookworms, Career Center, Games and Cartoon, plus Pet Care Guide.

CLICK

The next CLICK (Children's Librarians Information Coffee Klatch) will meet April 12 at the Baright Public Library in Ralston at 9:30 am. We will be talking about the Summer Reading Program and anything else we need to discuss! Please let Dee Huff know if you are planning to come.

(dhuff@omaha.lib.ne.us)



Worth Checking Out

Are you serving more seniors in your community? If you are, then be sure to look at the Library Journal bibliography on Healthy Aging (January 2004). Included in this listing are books, videos, and web sites on healthy aging, diet and exercise, brain fitness, sexuality, and personal growth. If seniors are not using your library maybe it is because you do not have the resources they need or an interested in.

“Topless” Car Wash - For fundraising ideas visit www.fundraising-ideas.org. The web site has over 50 fun and sometime wacky ideas. For instance, under Car Wash is “Topless” car wash. Really catches your attention, right? The hook is to advertise the vent as a topless carwash and then to set up the car washing area behind a business where it can’t be seen from the street. When the driver pulls in they will find that a “topless” car wash means the bottom is washed free but a donation of \$X is required if they want the top washed.

Informed Librarian Online— Infosources Publishing has announced the launch of *The Informed Librarian Online* (www.informedlibrarian.com), a free Web site that compiles professional reading for librarians. At the end of each month, an issue is posted that contains the links to all of the tables of contents (and full text where available) of the journals, magazines, newsletters, and electronic publications for that month. More than 275 journals that address all aspects of librarianship and information science are covered by this service. Issues are e-mailed to subscribers monthly, with a link to the site. Subscriptions are free, and passwords are provided free to access the site. Source: Infosources Publishing, Teaneck, NJ, 201-836-7072; www.infosourcespub.com.

Why Libraries Matter is the title of an article by Jim Hightower, a nationally known radio commentator, editor and author, that every librarian that works with the public, a library board, or a governing agency should read. This brief article in the January 2204 issue of *American Libraries* is not to be missed. For n interlibrary loan copy, call the system office.

Book Lists—For lists of the all-time best-selling books and authors go to the Internet Public Library web site at www.ipl.org/div/farq/bestsellerFARQ.html. Lists such as the ones offered would work well for book displays where you could display some of the “oldies but goodies.”

Organizing your home library has been made easier now since a cataloger at the New York Public Library Special Collections has designed a database program to keep track of all your bibliopossessions. It includes

author, title, publisher, year,, genre, subject, size, illustrations, purchase price, bookcase and shelf number, and whom you loaned it to. In addition, it comes with a 130-page accompanying *Guide to Organizing a Home Library*. For more information, visit www.thelibraryshop.org/yoholi.html.

Tech Tip : Databases / MS Access

by Karen Hein, UNO

According to Random House *Webster's Computer & Internet Dictionary* (1999), a database is "a collection of information organized in such a way that a computer program can quickly select desired pieces of data. ...think of a database as an electronic filing system." (p. 135)

A database consists of three main components: fields, records, and files. Fields are individual pieces of information, such as a last name or the title of a book. A record contains multiple fields. For example, a record in an address book database might contain the following fields: First Name, Last Name, Street Address, City, State, Zip Code, Phone Number. A database file is a collection of records.

To access the information in a database, a database management system (DBMS) is needed. The DBMS provides several functions:

- *Querying the database file, asking for specific information drawn from the records contained within;
- *Report generation (reports created based upon queries and retrieved results); and
- *A graphical user interface (GUI) to assist end users in creating and interacting with databases.

An example of a DBMS offering these capabilities (and more) is Microsoft Access. Other systems available include Oracle, ProCite, FileMaker, and MySQL.

For more information on Databases or Microsoft Access see these resources:

✓The ELS office has video and CD-ROM tutorials on Access 2000 available.

Web Sites:

*Microsoft Access Web site -- <http://www.microsoft.com/access/>

*Access 2000 Tutorial -- <http://www.learnitforfree.co.uk/PDFfiles/TutorialforAccess.pdf>

*Introduction to Databases for the Web -- <http://www.databasejournal.com/sqletc/article.php/1428721>

Books:

Hernandez, Michael J. *Database Design for Mere Mortals*. Addison-Wesley, 2003. ISBN: 0201752840.

Petersen, John. *Absolute Beginner's Guide to Databases*. Que, 2002. ISBN: 078972569X.

Get Wired @ your library™

A workshop sponsored by the Eastern Library System

Come and hear about a brand new free service provided through the Consumer Health Information Resource Service (CHIRS)

Wired MD

John A. Stahl Library, West Point
Friday, April 2

9:30 am - Coffee and Refreshments
10 - Noon Workshop

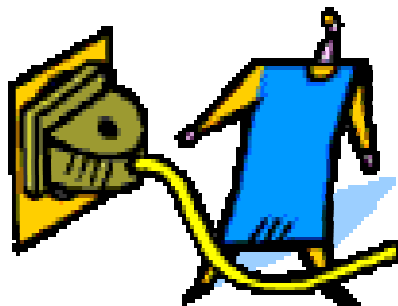
- Wired MD is a product which provides basic disease information in video and handout form. In addition, healthHQ will be featured which offers an online directory of contact information and meeting times of Nebraska-based support groups.
- This two hour hands-on session presented by Marie Reidelbach and Roxanne Cox from the McGoogan Library of Medicine at the Nebraska Medical Center will allow you time to practice using these new services, address questions about the CHIRS program, and Health HQ.

Name_____

Library_____

Phone_____

Email_____



This workshop will give you 2 hours of CE credit and costs \$8.00.

Please register by **March 26.**

Make your check out to ELS and mail to:

Eastern Library System
11929 Elm Street, Suite 12
Omaha, NE 68144

Eastern Library System Children's/Youth Services Grant

Introduction: Eastern Library System is offering two (2) \$500 grants for projects and/or services that will benefit children and young adults. These grants are open to all ELS member libraries that provide services for children and/or young adults. (Schools should submit an application from the district, not from an individual school.) Grant funds are to be an addition to the local current budget.

Description: Projects and/or services should include one of the following:

- Collection development (1) to replace worn or discarded books and/or (2) from recommended lists (Golden Sower, Caldecott, Newbery, Notable Books, etc.) Provide a list of what will be purchased.
- Children's literature course from any university or college
- New program or service for children or young adults

Instructions: Complete the following form and submit five (5) copies by **May 1, 2004** to:

Kathleen Tooker
Eastern Library System
11929 Elm Street, Suite 12
Omaha, NE 68144

Applications received after this date will not be considered. Applications will be reviewed by the Eastern Library System Continuing Education/Grants Committee.

Faxes will not be accepted.

Library Name: _____

Grant Director, Title: _____

Library: _____

Address: _____

E-mail: _____

Please answer the following statements/questions on a separate page

- Project title
- Project description (must address each of the following: Identify needs, Goals, Objectives, Implementation, Evaluation)
- Estimated cost/budget
- Benefit to children/young adults
- Starting and completion date

Grant Director _____ Date _____

Mad Hatter Award 2004

Presented by Child's World and the School, Children and Young People's Section of NLA

PURPOSE To recognize an individual member of the Nebraska Library Profession who has made an outstanding contribution to School, Children and Young People's librarianship and library development.

CRITERIA Individual nominated should have demonstrated achievements in the following areas:

1. Imaginative interpretation of library services
2. Development of innovative and creative programming for children and young adults
3. Demonstration of professional contributions to regional, state, and national library organizations, publications, and/or presentations.

*Nominee **MUST** be a member of the School, Children and Young People's Section of the Nebraska Library Association.

I nominate _____
(Name)

(Present address)

Nominee's library affiliation _____

Please attach sheets describing the achievements of your nominee. **All three criteria listed above must be addressed in your nomination.** You should include documentation in the form of several support letters from staff, parents, board members or others, each letter identifying the writer as to what role they play in libraries and their relationship to the nominee. It is highly recommended that photos of the person working with patrons be submitted as well as samples of programs, creativity, etc. that this person has done. Any documentation or detail that you can send supporting your nominee's qualifications and that assist the Mad Hatter Committee in making a judgment will be very helpful. Make sure all professional leadership is noted, especially SCYP membership. Using letter or essay format, follow these three headings:

1. Interpreting library services to the community
2. Developing innovative programming
3. Demonstrating professional leadership

Nominated by _____

Relationship to nominee _____

Address _____

Phone _____

Check one: I am a _____ Member of NLA _____ School Administrator
_____ Public Library Administrator

Please return the nomination form, achievement sheets and photos by August 20, 2004, to:

**Nancy Larimer
7424 Laura Lynn Ct.
Lincoln, NE 68516**



NLA Public Library Section 2004 Spring Meetings

This year's meetings are co-sponsored by: the Public Library Section; the Trustees, Users and Friends Section; the Special and Institutional Section; School, Children's and Young People Section, and the Nebraska Library Commission.

Please join us May 17th through the 20th!

Choose one of the following two workshops:

Being a Professional Person—it is not all about the Credentials

- Characteristics of a professional person
- Ways to be more professional
- Influence of professionalism
- Identifying ways to help other grow

Presenter: Mary Bushing, retired faculty member of Montana State University with experience in all types of libraries.

Teen Space: Capturing Teen Imagination in the Library

- Creating youth/adult partnerships
- Designing an inviting library teen space
- Developing a viable young adult collection
- Marketing and Customer Service to teens

Presenter: Kimberly Bolan Taney, Network Administrator and Patron Services Librarian at the Webster Public Library in New York.

10 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ **ZIP** _____

PHONE _____

LIBRARY _____ **E-MAIL** _____



Please check the day you will be coming:

_____ **Mon, May 17** Alliance Public Library, 1750 Sweetwater Ave, Alliance

_____ **Wed, May 19** Broken Bow Public Library, 626 South D. St., Broken Bow

_____ **Thurs, May 20** Seward Memorial Library, 5th and Main, Seward

The tract I will attend (please choose one):

Being a Professional Person _____
Teen Space _____

Registration fee: \$15 payable to NLA Public Library Section

Please send your registration to:

Joan Birnie

Broken Bow Public Library

626 South D. St.

Broken Bow, NE 68822

Registration deadline May 10,

**Eastern Library System Board Meeting
January 16, 2004, 9:30 am
Wahoo Public Library**

Present: Lupe Mier, Dorothy Willis, Becky Pasco, Kenny Oyer, Denise Lawver, Sam McMullen, Tammy Lorenz, Lori Long, Nina Little, Kathy Tooker, Nancy Meyer.

Introductions & Guests: Bill Beck, Library Media Specialist, Wahoo High School and Judy Hackman, Library Science student, Wahoo Public Schools. Judy Coday, director of the Wahoo Public Library welcomed the board and invited them to tour the library and look at the plans for the new library. The mayor of Wahoo also stopped and greeted the board.

Approval of minutes of November 21, 2003 meeting. Motion to approve—Kenny Oyer; Second—Denise Lawver. Motion carried.

Treasurer's reports for November and December 2003 were reviewed. To be filed for audit.

Correspondence—none

Administrator's Report (see written report)

- Erate forms have been filed and will reduce phone costs for System office.
- Kathy took Command Spanish for Librarians and is considering the possibility of making this training available for ELS members.
- System Administrators had their quarterly meeting with the NLC—good discussion.
- Legislative Day—February 19, 2004. Everyone please consider attending.
- Trustee training—Lead member of initiative will be Lynn Bradman, ELS Board members from Metro Community College. Lynn will weave process and results into her PHD work.
- Met with Technology committee—group is gathering survey results and working on plan for professional development sessions.
- Kathy went to a multi-state-system conference in San Diego in January
- All 6 systems are working with NEMA to develop learning sessions for school librarians.

Committee Reports:

Continuing Education—no report—send suggestions to Dorothy Willis, Becky Sims, Denise Lawver or Lupe Mier if you have ideas for CE events. The Annual Meeting is June 4, 2004, at the La Vista Public Library.

Technology

Interest survey will be in the next newsletter email and return by February 2nd to System office.

Nominating

All but one candidate has agreed to run for re-election—Denise Grunke will not be running again. Candidates from Dodge county are needed.

Ad Hoc Fundraising Committee (Pasco, Lawver, Long) Wine and Dine Fundraiser, February 6, 2004 in Omaha. Registration form is in current ELS newsletter. Funds from this event go to support the general operating expenses for ELS. All board members are encouraged to attend or recruit a representative from their library or regions.

Old Business: Conference Coordinator position—ELS turned down the position offered.

New Business:

Approval of Audit for FY 2002/2003. Motion to approve—Oyer, second by Willis. Motion carries.

Bylaws Change Proposal

Proposed Change to Article VI, Section 6.5 to read: Board members shall be elected by Electronic ballot, or by regular mail if electronic access is unavailable, and the results will be announced at the ELS annual meeting.

Next Meeting:

March 19, 2004
UNO Library, UNO campus—room 100

Motion to adjourn—Oyer, second by Lawver. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,
Becky Pasco, ELS Board secretary.

It's About Time, It's About Space

Presented by Lynne Fox

**Sponsored by the University of Nebraska Library Friends
and the Omaha Committee for National Library Week 2004**

Friday, April 23, 8– 12 or 1-5

Thompson Alumni Center, UNO Campus

Cost \$40, includes buffet lunch, noon-1pm

.....
Do you have files saved on your PC that haven't been opened since the last Bush administration? Is your desk littered with sticky notes covered with to-do lists and lots of exclamation marks? Does your work day feel like a series of interruptions with a little bit of work squeezed in between? Do you still have your first OPAC vendor's newsletters carefully filed away?

By the end of this course you will have learned time-tested strategies for managing time and staying organized using electronic and paper tools. You will use self-assessments, practice activities, cartoons, memory jogging phrases, and acronyms to increase learning. After completing this course you will return to work inspired to put what you've learned into action!

.....
Medical Library Assoc. and NLA CE's pending

Lynne M. Fox, AMLS, MA, AHIP, is Education Librarian at Denison Memorial Library,
University of Colorado Health Sciences Center in Denver. She has presented this
and other topics at national and regional meetings.

Testimonial: I took this course in New Orleans, and it changed the way I handle paper and electronic files forever. Recommended. Kenny Oyer

.....
Please detach and return this form with your check
made payable to National Library Week for \$40 by
April 10. (FEIN-47-0700128)

TO: Marty Magee
8054 Castelar St.
Omaha NE 68124

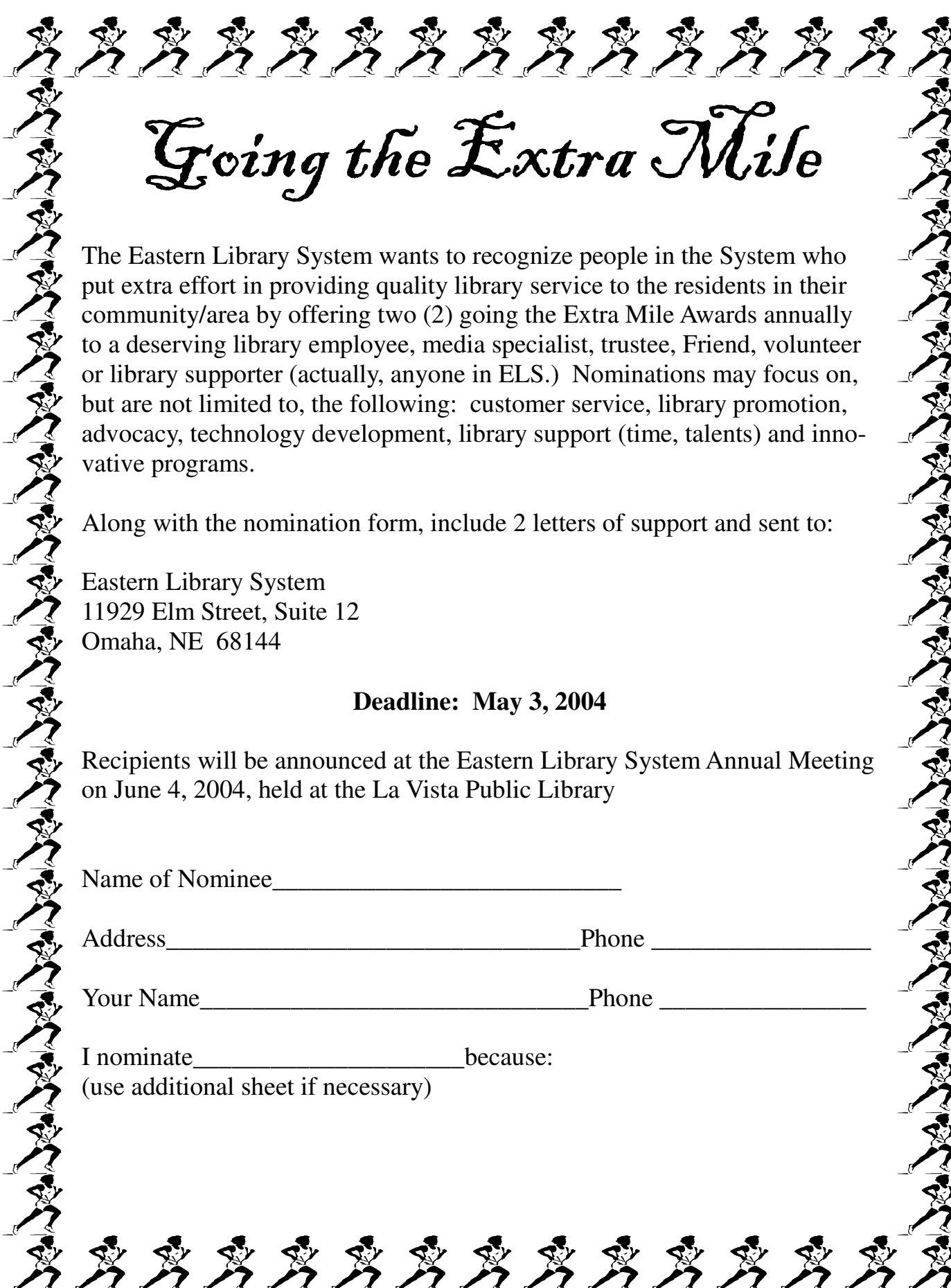
Name _____

Library _____

Phone _____

E-Mail _____

Please indicate :		Morning Session	8:00-noon
(1st or 2 nd pref.)		Afternoon Session	12:00-5:00



Going the Extra Mile

The Eastern Library System wants to recognize people in the System who put extra effort in providing quality library service to the residents in their community/area by offering two (2) going the Extra Mile Awards annually to a deserving library employee, media specialist, trustee, Friend, volunteer or library supporter (actually, anyone in ELS.) Nominations may focus on, but are not limited to, the following: customer service, library promotion, advocacy, technology development, library support (time, talents) and innovative programs.

Along with the nomination form, include 2 letters of support and sent to:

Eastern Library System
11929 Elm Street, Suite 12
Omaha, NE 68144

Deadline: May 3, 2004

Recipients will be announced at the Eastern Library System Annual Meeting on June 4, 2004, held at the La Vista Public Library

Name of Nominee _____

Address _____ Phone _____

Your Name _____ Phone _____

I nominate _____ because:
(use additional sheet if necessary)



Love Your Library System



Wine Tasting Fundraiser

Friday, April 16, 2004 [rescheduled from February 6]

7:00-9:00 p.m.

**The Clubhouse Inn & Suites
11515 Miracle Hills Drive
Omaha, Nebraska**

Sample the wines of Meier's Cork and Bottle of Lincoln, enjoy hors d'oeuvres, and visit with other library lovers, patrons, and trustees. Proceeds to the Eastern Library System.

Reservations are required. Cost is \$25 per person. Checks may be made payable and mailed to the Eastern Library System, 11929 Elm Street, Suite 12, Omaha, NE 68144. Please postmark your reservation and payment no later than April 9 - late reservations cannot be accepted!

If you have already sent in your paid registration [for the cancelled Feb. 6th date] you are on the list and we will see you on April 16th. Contact us with any questions (402-330-7884 or ktooker@alltel.net)

Name(s) _____

Telephone number _____

Room packages are also available! Contact the Clubhouse Inn and Suites (402-496-7500) for details.



Upcoming Events



March 14—Open House, Gretna Public Library, to celebrate new look & new YA section, 1-4 pm

March 17—Paraprofessional Spring Conference

March 19—ELS Board Meeting, UNO Library, Room 100, 9:30 am

March 22—Gates Transition Seminar, Norfolk, contact Pam Scott, pscott@nlc.state.ne.us

March 26—College of DuPage Teleconference: Professional Toolkit: Skills for Advancement

April 2—WiredMD Workshop, John A Stahl Library, West Point, (see flyer this issue)

April 7—DIRECT meeting for public library directors, Gretna Public Library, (9:30-11:30 am)

April 12—CLICK meeting for children and youth services librarians, Baright Public Library, Ralston, 9:30 am

April 16—Wine Tasting Fundraiser for ELS (see flyer this issue)

April 16—College of DuPage Teleconference, Joe James & Colleagues: Preparing for the Future of Digital Reference

April 23—It's About Time, It's About Space, 8-12 or 1-5 (see flyer this issue)

April 23, May 7 & 21—Basic Skills Organization of Materials Class, Bess Johnson Elkhorn Public Library

April 27—The Visible Library: Promoting Library Value with Marketing & Advocacy, Midland Luther College, 9:30-4 (see flyer this issue)

April 29-30—NETA Spring conference, for information contact neta@lps.org

May 20—NLA Public Library Section Spring Meeting, Seward Public Library (see flyer this issue)

May 21—ELS Board Meeting, Blair Public Library, 9:30 am

June 4—ELS Annual Meeting, La Vista Public Library

For more information on any of these events, call the System Office.

*Eastern Library System
11929 Elm Street, Suite 12
Omaha, NE 68144*

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